

**WASHINGTON, DC** - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence has been honored by The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) today as a "Taxpayer Hero" for scoring 98 percent on its [\*2008 Congressional Ratings\*](#) .

**"Rep. Pence put the interests of taxpayers ahead of politics by consistently voting to cut wasteful spending, reduce the tax burden, and make government more accountable to taxpayers,"** said CCAGW President Tom Schatz.

**"The 2008 Congressional Ratings show that many elected officials continue to demonstrate little regard for the harmful effect a large and cumbersome federal government has on taxpayers' wallets. Out-of-control spending reigned over Capitol Hill, leading to a record \$1.6 trillion deficit in fiscal year 2009, and an \$11.8 trillion national debt. Rep. Pence's votes give taxpayers hope for the future."**

#### BACKGROUND:

The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste is the lobbying arm of Citizens Against Government Waste, the nation's largest nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government.

The average for the entire House was 35 percent, and the average for the Senate was 38 percent; this makes Rep. Pence's achievement that much more impressive. Since 1989, CCAGW has tracked roll call votes to separate the taxpayer advocates in Congress from those who favor wasteful programs and pork-barrel spending.

The 2008 Congressional Ratings cover the voting year 2008, the second session of the 110th Congress. CCAGW rated 48 key votes in the House and 42 in the Senate.

